

Service permissible worker radon standards were higher than the gas well radon measurements. Analytical data indicated that most oilfield-related radioactivity was associated with radium, not uranium. By 1954, radioactive precipitates were documented in eight Texas and two Louisiana gulf coast salt dome oilfields, but uranium deposits were not found. Oilfield-specific uranium research slowed down after the 1950s, but renewed interest in Louisiana salt domes in 1969-71 resulted in regional study but no successful uranium discoveries.

THE PENNSYLVANIA GRADE CRUDE OIL ASSOCIATION: AFTER WWII

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The Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Association (PGCOA) was founded in 1923 as a trade association of producers, refiners and jobbers in western New York and Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and West Virginia. Its earliest efforts covered marketing of motor oils, “policing” (filing legal cases against firms that sold other oils as Pennsylvania products), and research in production and refining of petroleum. During World War II, the Association supported the war effort through research in refining and aircraft lubrication issues. Members, also, contributed to scrap drives and gasoline rationing programs.

At the end of the conflict, new challenges arose. The economics of the Oil Region (declining production, small refineries, etc...) put the oilmen in a difficult political position. For example, during the war, the U.S. government put in place a stripper-well subsidy, but after August 1945, major oil company leaders wanted to end it, because they saw it as a potential threat to the Oil Depletion Allowance, which provided hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks to the largest producers, but little to Appalachian producers. Pennsylvania oilmen went along with the Majors.

The process continued during the 1950s, as major firms lobbied the U.S. government to embrace policies which favored them, at the expense of small producers, refiners, and marketers of petroleum products. For example, by the late 1950s, financial problems led to the sale of the Association’s Bradford production lab, and production research increasingly shifted to producing firms. One highlight of this period was the celebration of the centennial of Col. Drake’s discovery well. Members of the association retained BBD&O, the legendary advertising firm, to coordinate activities, which in-

cluded Dave Garroay broadcasting NBC’s Today show from the grounds of the Drake Well Park on August 27, 1959.

This paper traces the work of the PGCOA from the end of World War II through the beginning of the “energy crisis” in the late 1960s. The association’s members attempted to keep their “place in the sun” in a business environment that seemed to grow increasingly brutal. It is based largely on papers deposited at the Drake Well Museum Archives at Titusville. Other material includes newspapers, books and pamphlets published by Pennsylvania State College and state and national government agencies, and secondary sources.

MARATHON – WHERE IT FIRST BEGAN IN NORTHWEST OHIO TO A FORTUNE 500 COMPANY TODAY.

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

This is the story of an Ohio oil company, from 1887 to the present, from the early wildcatters, to dealings with John D. Rockefeller, the effects of a Supreme Court decision, the formation of an integrated oil company, and finally to a split of downstream and upstream sectors forming today’s Marathon Petroleum Company and Marathon Oil Company. This is also the story of a father who came out of WWII having his heart set on farming, but during the war, the barn where the farm equipment was stored caught on fire. The Ohio Oil Company was where this young father started into business as an Ohio Oil distributor and his kids rode in the delivery truck in the summer.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UTICA – POINT PLEASANT SHALE PLAY OF OHIO

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The Utica – Point Pleasant shale play, known simply as the “Utica” has a rich and interesting history that has unfolded over the past five years. The first Utica wells were drilled by Chesapeake Appalachia in Carroll and Harrison Counties in 2011. These wells proved significant natural gas, natural gas